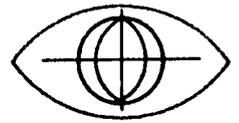


FD-1211-201



SIX MONTH REPORT
TRAINING AND RESOURCE UNIT
FOR VITAMIN A
&
PROVITAMIN A PROJECTS
APRIL 1 - AUGUST 31 1993

Submitted to:
U.S.A.I.D Office of Nutrition

Cooperative Agreement No.:
DAN-5116-A-00-0067-00

Grant Period:
September 1st, 1991 - August 30th, 1994

Submitted by:

IEF-Headquarters
John Barrows, MPH, Director of Programs
Laine Isaacson, Program Officer

NCBD/IEF-Guatemala
Gustavo Hernandez-Polanco, M.D., Country Director
Eugenia Saenz de Tejada (Kena), Licda., Project Coordinator
Silvia Elvira Hernandez de Ponce, Licda., Assistant Coordinator
Srita. Elida Noemi Garcia Alvarez, Office Assistant

SEPTEMBER 1993

the
International
Eye Foundation

CONTRACT/GRANT/CA BASELINE REPORT

Project Number/ Title	Funding Thru
936-5116 Provita	08/30/94
Contractor/ Grantee	Contract/Grant No. Exp. Date
Int'l. Eye Foundation	DAN-5116-A-00-0067-00 08/30/94
Date Last Evaluation	Date Next Evaluation
" " Financial Review	" " Financial Review
" " Financial Audit	" " Financial Audit
" " Perform. Audit	" " Perform. Audit
" " Site Visit	" " Site Visit

BUDGET/ FINANCIAL ANALYSIS:	R&D Core	OYB Trans	R&D Core OYB Trans	BUY-INS	TOTAL
1. TOTAL CONTRACT/GRANT/CA AGREE. COST:	401,424				401,424
2. CUMULATIVE OBLIGATIONS (THRU 6/30/93):	300,000				300,000
3. PLANNED OYB (7/1/93-12/31/93)	0				0
4. TOTAL OBLIGATIONS (THRU 6/30/93):	300,000				300,000
5. PLANNED OBLIGATIONS THRU FY (OPTIONAL):	0				0
6. SHORTFALL/FORWARD ANTICIP. FUNDING (OPTIONAL):	N/A				N/A

7. CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES (THRU 6/30/93):	192,872				192,872
(OF WHICH VOUCHERED EXPENDITURES):	(192,872)				(192,872)
8. CUMMULATIVE COMMITMENTS (THRU 6/30/93):					
9. PIPELINE (AS OF 6/30/93):	107,128				107,128

10. EXPENDED IN PAST YEAR (7/1/92-6/30/93)	61,573				61,573
11. ACTUAL MONTHLY BURN RATE (7/1/92-6/30/93)	5,131				5,131
12. PLANNED EXPENDITURES IN CURRENT YEAR (7/1/93 - 6/30/94):					
13. PLANNED MONTHLY BURN RATE (7/1/93-6/30/94)	7,500				7,500
14. MONTHS FUNDING AVAILABLE AFTER 6/30/93:	14.3				14.3

A

SIX MONTH REPORT¹
ON USAID-OFFICE OF NUTRITION FUNDED
VITAMIN-A ACTIVITIES IN GUATEMALA
April 1 - August 31, 1993

1. Project Title:

"Increasing the Availability of Dietary Vitamin A to Under-Six-Year-Olds Through, Plant, Food-Sources of Provitamin A" (ProVita)

2. Project Status:

a. Purpose

To improve in-country abilities in the analysis of human plasma for retinol concentration; complete analysis of total vitamin A activity in plants and; to evaluate the biological and behavioral impact within household units of a vitamin A food intervention.

b. End of Project Status:

In-country capacity (Guatemala) to analyze plasma for retinol concentrations; Analysis of selected plants for total vitamin A and results documented and disseminated; Biological, behavioral, and anthropological evaluation of a vitamin A food intervention, and results documented and disseminated.

3. Progress:

a. *Component #1: Capacitating the laboratory at CeSSIAM in the analysis of human plasma for retinol concentrations (HPLC).*

* Planning and execution of the biological samples collection: Completed.

* Lic. Romero has been able to serve as a consultant for HPLC procedures in Honduras. The system is still in good shape. Some problems related to supplies are still difficult to solve.

¹ This report covers only a five month period. This will bring IEF in sync with the time table of the Office of Nutrition.

b. *Component #2: Chemical analysis for total vitamin A activity of important selected plant sources.*

* Plant analysis: Analysis of 28 plants at the NCSU lab is completed.

* Manual on Field Collection of Plants for Vitamin A Analysis:

A Spanish version of a Manual on Field Collection of Plants for Vitamin A analysis is finished and ready to be published. An English version of the same manual is still under review but nearing completion.

c. *Component #3: Effecting food distribution intervention with important selected plant foods.*

Completed by September 1992.

d. *Component #4: Evaluating the biological and behavioral impact within household units of the food intervention.*

* Plasma Sample Analysis: The plasma samples (623 baseline and final) are in -70 C storage at the laboratory of Dr. Bankson, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington. A decision is pending on the possibility to conduct the analysis of these samples at the CDC, Atlanta, Georgia or at the Hoffman LaRoche laboratories, Basel, Switzerland.

* Data Reduction, Entry and Analysis:

Behavioral data. Data entry was performed and preliminary, preliminary analysis has been performed. However, further analysis is pending the analysis of plasma samples. Partial analysis on data collection has been accomplished and presented at meetings. No journal paper has been published. Lic. Gamero is preparing paper on the dietary patterns in the villages using the baseline information.

4. Principal Issues and Problems:

a. *Component #1: Completed.*

b. *Component #2: Completed.*

c. *Component #3: Completed.*

d. *Component #4:*

* For a more extensive and quantitative analyses of the data, analysis of the plasma samples need to be analyzed. This will require either pro bono services at the CDC or Hoffmann LaRoche laboratories, or additional funding.

5. Planned Actions for Next Six Months:

a. *Component #1:* Completed

b. *Component #2:* Completed

c. *Component #3:* Completed.

d. *Component #4:*

* Determination of where plasma samples can be analyzed. Behavioral data will be further analyzed. Paper on dietary patterns in the villages will be completed.

6. Financial Review and Projection:

Appended.

SIX MONTH REPORT²
ON USAID-OFFICE OF NUTRITION FUNDED
VITAMIN-A ACTIVITIES IN GUATEMALA
April 1 - August 31, 1993

1. Project Title:

Training and Resource Unit for Vitamin A and Nutrition Education in Guatemala "Unidad Pro Vitamina A" (UPVA)

2. Project Status:

a. Purpose:

To strengthen the capacity of IEF and the NCBD to develop locally appropriate vitamin A and nutrition education materials, and training programs through the creation of a training unit for vitamin A and nutrition education, "Unidad Pro Vitamin A" (UPVA).

b. End Of Project Status:

Establishment of an effective, low cost unit capable of being sustained by the NCBD by the end of the project; IEF Child Survival for Vitamin A projects in Guatemala and Honduras have improved training and nutrition education interventions; Other PVO/NGO groups and Ministries have improved access to technical assistance and information on vitamin A nutrition.

3. Progress:

a. *Objective #1. Conduct collaborative projects with VITAP, VITAL, and INCAP.*

- HKI-VITAP/Manoff/IEF Materials Development: The collaborative project among PVOs in Guatemala to develop Spanish and indigenous language vitamin A education training materials is continuing.

- A second workshop for NGO's participating in the Vitamin A Materials Development Project took place April 21 - 23, 1993. Participating NGO's included: IEF-Coban; PLAN; INCAP-Guatemala; PCI; INCAP-El Salvador and Honduras; Hope; UNICEF; CeSSIAM. The purpose of the workshop was to provide the opportunity for participating NGOs to discuss the results of the formative research on vitamin A consumption behaviors conducted by the individual projects and to formulate a tool for participating projects to conduct household behavioral trials on principle messages. The participating NGOs reported their results and the larger group analyzed their findings.

² This report covers only a five month period. This will bring IEF in sync with the schedule of the Office of Nutrition.

- A final report of the formative research conducted by the participating NGOs was written and distributed.
- A protocol for the household behavioral trials as outlined during the second workshop was completed by IEF-UPVA, INCAP and Manoff International staff.
- A communication plan to promote foods rich in vitamin A was developed by IEF, INCAP and Manoff International staff. This plan was submitted to all participating NGOs for comments and revisions.
- A third workshop was held for participating NGOs June 15 - 17, 1993. In attendance was Project HOPE, PCI, ADRA, IEF-Headquarters; IEF-Coban; IEF-Honduras; INCAP-Guatemala; INCAP-Honduras; INCAP-El Salvador; Christian Children's Fund; Manoff International-Headquarters; Manoff International-Guatemala; Helen Keller International (HKI); and local graphic and radio specialists. Decisions were made about media, health messages, and target audiences. It was decided that the health materials to be developed would include: radio messages in Spanish and indigenous languages; calendars with photos accompanied by health messages; flip-charts with drawings and health messages; and hand-held cards (which can be easily carried by health promoters) which will be smaller versions of the drawings and messages on the flip charts.
- Funding pledges towards the development of vitamin A health education materials were made by IEF, HOPE and HKI. Manoff International and INCAP volunteered technical expertise towards the development of the materials. The Christian Children's Fund is exploring their funding resources to make a contribution to the project. Fiscal responsibility for the contributions has been accepted by the IEF. It was decided that the funds raised for the project would go towards the initial development of the materials and initial copies. However, individual NGOs would have to pay printing or duplicating costs for the number of materials they would want to utilize in their own projects.
- The IEF staff has taken the lead in the hiring of specialists to develop the materials that were determined by the entire group. IEF staff have solicited quotes from various specialists (photographers, artists, radio production specialists). The photographer and graphic artist were hired for the project. Project staff are still researching radio production specialists as quotes obtained were quite high.
- IEF staff accompanied the photographer to various indigenous areas (project sites of IEF-Coban, Project Concern, INCAP and HOPE) to take photos for the materials development project. Slides were reviewed and six scenes were selected for the calendar project. These include: mother breastfeeding child; child eating carrots; child eating hierbas; child eating egg (with grandmother included); child eating liver/fish; father bringing hierbas home. Photos were also selected to provide to artist to use as a base to produce graphics for flip chart/educational card production.

- Once materials are developed, a fourth workshop is planned to present the materials to the entire group. The individual NGOs will then validate these resources in their project areas. Editing and changes will then be made reflecting the findings of the validation tests.
 - It was decided that a manual would be developed to document the development of the entire collaborative materials development project. This manual would be useful for others interested in conducting similar health materials development projects in the Central American region. IEF staff, Manoff International and HKI are involved in the formation of this document.
- b. Objective #2. Design and produce vitamin A and nutrition training materials for IEF/NCBD projects and where appropriate other PVO/NGO groups and institutions.*
- Document on iodine deficiency was revised.
 - Vitamin A information sheet developed for health promoters was revised in accordance with suggestions made by IEF-Coban. This resource was requested by PLAN International for their health promoters. Distributed 250 copies of this document to Project HOPE promoters during their training. Distributed 33 copies to doctors and nurses working for the Ministry of Health in collaboration with Project HOPE.
 - Progress has been made on scripts for slide sets on vitamin A deficiency. Sets and scripts on metabolism, functions, sources and diagnosis methods are completed.
 - Participated in second and final parts of video workshop.
 - Validated vitamin A module and vitamin A booklet for grade school children. Validated vitamin A booklet (coloring book) for preschool children.
 - Tabulated data received from research in Tipulcan and developed seven recipes for weaning foods. These recipes have not yet been validated.
 - Meeting was held in Coban between Project HOPE staff, IEF Coban staff to discuss the production of gardening/horticulture materials. It was decided that a second meeting would be arranged between the IEF-Coban gardening specialist, UPVA and HOPE staff to revise existing materials.
 - Revised IEF Fact Sheet in Spanish.

- c. *Objective #3. Provide information and materials on vitamin A deficiency and nutrition education to PVO/NGO groups requesting information.*
- Classified the needs questionnaires received according to interests and resources. To date, IEF-UPVA has received responses from 28 organizations. Have decided to visit (in person) nearby agencies which have not responded to questionnaire to introduce IEF-UPVA and obtain necessary information.
 - Requested documents on vitamin A/health and nutrition education from CIHT, Clearinghouse, INPF, CONAPLAN, HealthCom, University of Pennsylvania, WHO/GPA, ASECSA, Hesperian Foundation, World Neighbors, Universities in Columbia and India, Maria Maya, Xerophthalmia Club and Sight and Life.
 - Received materials requested from UNICEF, Pritech, Johns Hopkins University, Sight and Life, VITAL, INPF, WHO, AHRTAG, CENDEC, FAO, URTNA, VITAP, CDAINM and Alfalit.
 - Sent copies of the vitamin A publication for health technicians produced by IEF-UPVA to Project HOPE and twelve MOH health centers, as requested. Sent copies of vitamin A publication for doctors to the Ministerios de Agua Viva, Project HOPE, Peace Corps, Agrosalud, as requested. Sent copies of the iron deficiency document prepared by IEF-UPVA to the Ministerios de Agua Viva, Peace Corps, Project HOPE, Agrosalud and 5 MOH health center staff, as requested.
 - Translated and revised the questionnaire to assess the need for vitamin A capsules.
- d. *Objective #4. Conduct workshops, seminars and lectures for IEF/NCBD projects, Ministries, and Universities on vitamin A deficiency and nutrition issues.*
- Presented lecture on vitamin A at a workshop for Ministry of Health workers working in collaboration with Project Hope in Quetzaltenango. A second lecture described the services provided by the IEF-UPVA. Two similar lectures were delivered for Ministry of Health staff working in San Juan Ostuncalco and at a workshop in Coban for NGOs working with child survival programs.
 - Met with staff from the Nutrition Department of USAC and UVG and the Department of Medicine of UFM. Both Departments of Nutrition will now include lectures on vitamin A as part of their programs. Activities beginning in July or August.
 - Presented two lectures on vitamin A at meeting organized by USAC.
 - Presented information on Vitamin A Materials Development Collaborative Project to doctors in Graduate Health Program at MH/PHO/INAP.

- e. *Objective #5: Convene meetings for the IEF/NCBD and coordinate inter-institutional meetings between PVO/NGO groups on vitamin A deficiency.*
 - All meetings conducted within this period relate to the Materials Development Project and are explained in Section C1 of this report.
- f. *Objective #6: Establish and maintain a library for vitamin A and nutrition education documents and materials.*
 - Resources of the UPVA library continue to expand. These publications are available to IEF personnel, NGO personnel or others interested in vitamin A deficiency.
- g. *Objective #7: Produce and disseminate a semi-annual newsletter on current vitamin A activities and resources.*
 - The third issue of the UPVA semi-annual newsletter was produced in August. This issue has been disseminated locally, but will be mailed internationally through the United States as mail between Latin American nations has proved unreliable.

4. Principle Issues and Problems:

A primary hindrance to the UPVA project within this period relates to staff turnover. The IEF Country Director, Dr. Gustavo Hernandez Polanco was recently appointed as Minister of Health of Guatemala. Although IEF is very proud of this appointment, this leaves a gap in IEF management personnel. An interim Country Director is currently in place, however, IEF is in the process of searching for a more permanent replacement.

Licda. Sylvia de Ponce, Assistant Coordinator of UPVA resigned her position on July 31, 1993. IEF is currently searching for a qualified replacement for this position.

- a. *Objective #1: Conduct collaborative projects with VITAP, VITAL, and INCAP.*

Although participating NGOs are quite enthusiastic about the collaborative materials development project, difficulty often arises in obtaining a prompt response to the needs of the project due to time constraints. For example, many NGOs found it impossible to carry out the research to develop the health education messages in the time allotted. UPVA staff have not yet received input from NGOs on the communication plan developed by IEF, Manoff/Helen Keller, and INCAP. It appears that UPVA must continue to offer participating NGOs as much assistance as possible in order to gain their continued input.

IEF staff are experiencing difficulty in obtaining the services of radio production experts at a reasonable cost. In the past, the IEF Coban project has obtained radio expertise much more reasonably as it has been able to make commitments with the local station in purchasing a lengthy amount of "air time" for free production expertise. As in this case, radio spots are to be produced for utilization by a number of NGOs within different geographic areas, it is impossible to negotiate for reduction of production costs. IEF staff continue to research possibilities related to this problem.

b. *Objective #2: Design and produce vitamin A and nutrition training materials for IEF/NCBD projects and where appropriate other PVO/NGO groups and institutions.*

* Further analysis of the intrahousehold study has been delayed due to a busy schedule and the loss of the Assistant UPVA Coordinator.

* Management trip of UPVA Coordinator to Honduras to discuss the material needs of Honduras Vitamin A Project has been postponed until October due to scheduling difficulties.

c. *Objective #3: Provide information and materials on vitamin A deficiency and nutrition education to PVO/NGO groups requesting information.*

There have been no problems during the reporting period.

d. *Objective #4: Conduct workshops, seminars and lectures for IEF/NCBD projects, Ministries, and Universities on vitamin A deficiency and nutrition issues.*

There have been no problems during the reporting period.

e. *Objective #5: Convene meetings for the IEF/NCBD and coordinate inter-institutional meetings between PVO/NGO groups on vitamin A deficiency.*

No meetings other than those dealing with the collaborative project were scheduled.

f. *Objective #6: Establish and maintain a library for vitamin A and nutrition education documents and materials.*

Due to the loss of the Assistant Project Coordinator, entry of library resources is slightly behind schedule.

- g. *Objective #7: Produce and disseminate a semi-annual newsletter on current vitamin A activities and resources.*

A slight problem with the printing of the newsletter delayed dissemination for two weeks.

5. Planned Actions for Next Six Months:

- a. *Objective #1: (Collaborative Materials Development Project)*

Research and contract radio specialists in order to produce radio spots/messages for collaborative materials development project. Draft vitamin A health education materials (calendar, flip chart, health education cards, radio spots and radio mini-programs) with collaborative group. Conduct pretesting workshop in which participating agencies view drafted materials and which appropriate pretesting methodology is explained. Pretest materials in Coban area. Assist other NGOs in pretesting. Revise materials. Distribute materials produced. Produce manual on collaborative materials development project.

- b. *Objective #2: (Production of Vitamin A Materials)*

Modify vitamin A poster produced in Coban for a wider audience. Print and distribute modified poster. Develop gardening materials in collaboration with Project HOPE. Pretest vitamin A recipes in Coban. Complete revisions of micronutrient documents (iron, vitamin A, iodine). Develop slide shows with matching scripts on vitamin A. Research possibility of producing filmstrips on vitamin A.

- c. *Objective #3: (Disseminate vitamin A materials)*

Continue to disseminate materials regarding vitamin A to all agencies/individuals requesting information. Continue contacting NGOs to make them aware of the Training Center as a resource for vitamin A materials.

- d. *Objective #4: (Conduct workshops and lectures on vitamin A)*

Continue to conduct lectures for universities, NGOs, ministries and other organizations requesting information on vitamin A, vitamin A programs, vitamin A materials, etc.

- e. *Objective #5: (Convene meetings)*

IEF will continue to host meetings relating to the vitamin A collaborative project. After this project is complete, IEF hopes to interest other NGOs in continuing to collaborate on similar activities.

f. Objective #6: (Maintain library)

IEF will continue to solicit publications relating to vitamin A. IEF will continue to advertise the availability of UPVA resources to other NGOs and interested entities.

g. Objective #7: (Produce newsletter)

IEF will continue to produce the semi-annual newsletter.

6. Financial Review and Projection:

Appended.